

## An Old Time Darke County School Master.

BY ISAAC KAY, M. D.

The writer of the following sketch wishes to premise that in his ninth year he was brought from his native home in the Cumberland Valley, Pennsylvania, to West Alexandria, Ohio, in the autumn of the year 1836, where, on the 4th day of November, 1837, he was rendered fatherless. His residences in Darke county, Ohio, were intermittent and quite variable, extending from the year 1840, when the county had a population of 13,145, until the year 1845.

When only a boy, the writer of this article attended a country school a mile east of Ithaca, Ohio, and near a spot now called Gordon, Darke county. The teacher was an exceedingly eccentric, middle-aged personage, who proudly styled himself, "Paul Chase of the State of New York." The first time that I ever saw him was on the day after the October state election of 1842, nearly 74 years ago, when he appeared upon the streets of our village, exultingly reciting the words of a political campaign song then in vogue, commencing with the line "Wilson Shannon has given a tanning to Tom the Wagon Boy." In this song the then ex-Governor Thomas Corwin, of great distinction, was meant.

The writer was then living in Ithaca and Mr. Chase had taught in several of the nearby villages, where his services were highly esteemed. But he would occasionally take a day off, especially of Saturdays, at which times he would stir up the people in and about the towns of Lewisburg, West Baltimore, New Castine, and Ithaca with his progressive notions and original ways of expressing them. Mr. Chase's methods of teaching might well be considered first class, even in this day of public schools. Like his neighborhood co-temporaries, Findlay Moore and James Grimes, he sometimes taught in the villages, but mostly in the rural districts, often boarding around at the homes of the scholars. He was kind in his manner, firm, strict in enforcing discipline and thorough in his course of instruction.

The complete circle of the sciences as taught by him was fitly represented by the mystic number seven, to-wit: The alphabet, spelling, reading, writing, arithmetic, grammar and geography. Hickory and beech would have increased the curriculum, but the pioneer school masters generously threw these branches in gratis, so they were not counted in the regular list of studies. It was the theory of some that a dull and inattentive boy's lessons should be illustrated now and then with a few lively woodcuts. The pupil would thus be made to remember the illustrations if not the text.

Mr. Chase called the pupils' attention to the principles of orthography, orthoepy, grammatical rules and elegant composition. The principles of analysis, both in grammar and in arithmetic, were most ably inculcated, which was quite an item in those early days and a new departure in the usual course of rural education. One of the singularities of this method was that he taught the art of spelling not so much by rote as by observing the systematic rules of orthography as fully as the structure of the English language would allow. He paid close attention, not only to the mere letter of the rules in arithmetic and grammar, but to the essential principles upon which these rules were based; and he

delighted in considering what might be termed the philosophy of numbers and of language.

Mr. Chase was himself a fine speller, reader, elocutionist and arithmetician. If a word of whatever unsettled orthography or orthoepy were given out to him he would immediately and from memory give the correct spelling and pronunciation as taught, by Walker first and then Webster, Worcester, Elphinston, Johnson and other leading lexicographers of England and America. He was a liberal patron and attendant upon nearly all the spelling matches and debating societies in the neighborhood and invariably made it lively for all concerned.

The writer remembers one especially pleasing and profitable of Mr. Chase's every day exercises at school. It was a general rehearsal, in concert by all the scholars, big and little, at the close of each afternoon session. This exercise lasted about fifteen minutes and consisted in asking questions by the teacher and answer in chorus by the children. Many of the scholars were from six to fourteen years of age and had been thoroughly drilled upon this program until they could answer everything with promptness and vim. The first question was "What are the signs of the Zodiac?" Answer by the school: "They are twelve. Aries, Taurus, Gemini, Cancer, Leo, Virgo, Scorpio, Sagittarius, Capricornus, Aquarius and Pisces." Then would follow a variety of set questions and corresponding answers, upon mathematical, physical, descriptive and political geography, embracing the earth's daily and annual movements and its various astronomical relations to the solar system, its natural and political divisions, together with the capitals of all the states and nations in the world. Then followed questions and answers on the tables of weights and measures, divisions of time, principal events in the world's history and many maxims and rules of prime importance in practical life.

Mr. Chase was a great reader of poetry and fiction, although he never attempted to write a single page of either. He claimed that poets were born and not made such, and that a man no more could make himself a poet, than a sheep can make itself a goat. His readings in the field of light literature were confined generally to the more meritorious authors, both modern and ancient. His advice in the selection of books was always to take the best, for it took no more time to read a worthy book than it did to read an inferior one.

Mr. Chase had intense admiration for what he regarded as first-class authors, and a most decided aversion, amounting to unjust and unreasonable prejudice, against certain others. In these respects he was in many particulars most decidedly old fogey even for his time. His favorite dictionary was Walker, with some tolerance for Worcester, against all the rest then in use. The most invidious comparisons were made in favor of Murray as against Kirkham in grammar; in favor of the English Introduction Reader and Sequel as against what he termed the follies of McGuffey's; and in favor of Adam's Analytic Arithmetic, Talbot and other prominent arithmetics of that day. But to say Samuel Kirkham or B. F. Ellis as grammarians to him was like shaking a red rag at a cross bull. It would invariably elicit criticisms that were ironical and sarcastic. His arraignment of faulty authors, especially of school books, were fairly cyclonic, and yet he was an amiable man

Mr. Chase had a powerful physical organization, weighing about two hundred pounds, and compactly built. Two of his most noted characteristics, physical and intellectual, were the immensity of brain and his power of memory. He could scarcely ever get a ready-made hat that was large enough for him to wear. He required a number eight and a quarter hat, and always had to get one manufactured over a special block. One day he came into our village store and called for a new hat. The merchant laughingly replied that he had the very thing to suit him. It was a number eight plug hat, and was several sizes too large for any customer who had ever yet presented himself. For this reason the article had been on hand for three or four years and become shelf-worn. It was therefore offered cheap, considering the fineness of its quality. But on trying the headgear on it was found to be a trifle too small and upon attempting to pull it down in front the material, being somewhat old and weakened, the rim was torn off from ear to ear, leaving only the back part of the rim attached, whilst the fore part hung dangling under his chin. It made him look like the pictures of the Cannibal Islands.

Mr. Chase's memory was simply prodigious. He was an omnivorous reader and seemed to remember all that he had ever read. He could repeat the entire contents of a newspaper or book verbatim after several careful readings. I remember that at one time there were several of us in his advanced reading class that took two lessons in Pope's translation of Virgil. There were five or six of us in the class, each in turn reading a paragraph of twenty or thirty lines at a time, Mr. Chase with the rest. He had no book in his hand himself, but constantly walked the floor before us, correcting all the mistakes made by those reading in the books and then reciting his own paragraph in regular order from memory whenever it came his turn to read. This he could do throughout the entire length of that masterly composition of thirteen thousand, four hundred and seventy lines.

Mr. Chase was an extraordinarily effective reader, owing to his splendid voice, rhetorical force and the hearty manner of entering into the views and spirit of an author. He could recite the Aeneid of Virgil with such a zest and dramatic power that an attentive and sympathizing listener could well imagine that he saw the rude warriors of that early day excitedly rushing up and down the banks of the muddy Tiber; and then hear the loud clangor of their arms as in compact ranks they marched and fought over the Seven Hills of ancient Latium, long before the full establishment of Old Rome. At least it would so appear to us unsophisticated boys as we listened to him recite.

Mr. Chase's favorite authors, for his own private reading, as stated, were mostly in the line of poetry and fiction. He was very decided in his liking for Homer, Virgil, Shakespeare, Pope, Kirk White, Byron, Sir Walter Scott, Cervantes, Swift, Fielding and Dickens. He had a keen appreciation of comedy, and always had a readiness of repartee and wit in conversation, such as might have been expected from such an apt student as he was of Dean Swift and Sydney Smith. He was full of humorous anecdotes, puzzles and games calculated to try the ingenuity of the recipient.

His ability for analytic reasoning and apposite quotations from numerous authors made him a formidable opponent in a public discussion. Nearly the only man in that part of the country who could cope with him in an argument was Dr. Robert L. VanHarrington, a talented physician, born and educated in Lebanon, Ohio, but who long since died whilst on a visit to Kansas, at a good old age.

Another worthy co-temporary of Mr. Chase at Ithaca was young Daniel Francis, a sort of mathematical genius of those days, who had given successful attention to the higher branches of that noble science. He had mastered nearly all of Dr. Charles Hutton's extensive university works on algebra, trigonometry, conic sections and surveying, under the instructions of the Rev. Mr. Ogden of Ithaca, an aged and scholarly Presbyterian clergyman, living a retired life in that village.

Mr. Francis afterward removed west and became a prominent member of the Iowa state legislature. Mr. Chase was naturally of an amiable and peaceable disposition and would not, intentionally, have given pain to any living creature. I never heard of his having a quarrel with any one. He was a great walker; going from village to village and from one school district to another. He had never been known to ride either on horseback or in a wheeled vehicle. He seemed to think, with David the Psalmist, that a horse was a vain thing for safety; and, moreover, he loved walking more than any other bodily exercise.

Mr. Chase had an original, ingenious and effective way of keeping his shoes clean in the summer time. He accomplished this feat by going barefooted; and at such times he would repeat a beatitude of his own getting up: "Blessed are the barefooted, for they shall not get their boots muddy."

Mr. Chase had many serious faults, but he never used tobacco in any of its forms nor was he given to profane swearing. I can see, even yet, in my imagination, the score of bright-eyed, tow-headed little boys and girls (who, if yet living, must now be seventy or more years of age), arranged in rows upon their humble, backless benches; and I can seem to hear their child-like voices repeating the refrain of "Aries, Taurus, Gemini, Leo, Virgo, Libra, Scorpio, Sagittarius, Capricornus, Aquarius and Pisces," which were the names of those prominent way-stations upon the sun's stupendous pathway through the skies, names so suggestive of the swiftly revolving years that have already separated us so far from those early days that are even now hurrying us so rapidly on.

"From fancy's roll I call them,  
And a far off echo fills  
My soul with eager longing  
As the old-time answer thrills;  
To the same old rhythmic flow  
That bound in love the friends  
Of seventy years ago.  
"But many ne'er will answer  
To an earthly call again;  
The roll above is growing  
While the few who here remain  
Are waiting, glad to answer  
'Present' on that other shore,  
Glad to be again enrolled  
Among the friends of yore."

At the close of the beautiful summer of 1845, the orioles, the blue birds, the robins and the swallows all left the Upper Twin Valley, Darke county, for another clime. So did Paul Chase. Like our little friends, he left many well wishes, but no unsettled bills, behind. He had given a full equivalent for all that he wore and ate, and more than an

equivalent in value, at least, for much that he drank. But he left us, with the same ultimate intention as did the birds, for these came back to us in the spring, whilst the mysterious, eccentric and wandering old school master came not back with them. Nor did he return the next year, nor the next, nor the next; NO, NOR EVEN YET.

Springfield, Ohio, October, 1916.

## Pine-Tar Relieves a Cold.

Dr. Bell's Pine-Tar-Honey contains all the soothing elements of the pine forest. It heals the irritated membrane, and by its antiseptic properties loosens the phlegm, you breathe easier, and what promised to be a severe cold has been broken up. For that stuffed-up feeling, tight chest or sore throat take a dose of Dr. Bell's Pine-Tar-Honey and prevent a wearing, hacking cough dragging through the winter. At your druggist, 25c. —Adv

## Savona.

Political discussions are becoming quite popular in our little village of late. As the national election draws near men are becoming more interested and are reading the political news and canvassing the situation in a way that we believe will make for a great change in the political atmosphere. Not a few Wilson followers have expressed very pronounced G. O. P. views.

We were treated to a prohibition speech and songs by a party of gentlemen, led by Mr. Gillian, state organizer, one afternoon last week.

Some of our farmer neighbors were laying in their supply of coal for the winter last week.

Mrs. W. E. Michael was called to Dayton, O., by the illness of their son Elza.

J. W. Ashbaugh and wife entertained to Sunday dinner their son Roy and family and friends from Brookville, O.

John Eddins and wife and Harley Lawrence and wife Sunday with Syl. Lawrence and wife.

H. W. Bowen and wife visited relatives in Indiana over Sunday.

Attendance at Sunday school was not as good as usual, we suppose because of the fine weather for autoing.

Christian Endeavor was well attended last Sunday evening. A very interesting and instructive program was given, under the leadership of Miss Minnie Gower. Several numbers consisted of declamations by the smaller members. Rev. Michael gave a very interesting address on the subject, "What new work should our society undertake?" We are truly glad to see the young people taking hold of this work so earnestly.

Oct. 9. Bess

## Rheumatism Follows Exposure.

In the rain all day is generally followed by painful twinges of rheumatism or neuralgia. Sloan's Liniment will give you quick relief and prevent the twinges from becoming torture. It quickly penetrates without rubbing and soothes the sore and aching joints. For sore, stiff, exhausted muscles that ache and throb from overwork, Sloan's Liniment affords quick relief. Bruises, sprains, strains and other minor injuries to children are quickly soothed by Sloan's Liniment. Get a bottle today at your druggist's, 25c. —Adv

Read Magazine Offers Page Five of Journal.

## PREVENT SOUP KITCHENS AFTER THE BIG WAR

Myron T. Herrick Declares Tariff to Be the Issue of Campaign.

Salaries Under Herrick and Cox; Discoverer of President Wilson Forsakes Him

Replying to the question of what seemed to be most engrossing the attention of the voters of Ohio this campaign, Myron T. Herrick, the Republican nominee for United States senator, recently said:

"It seems to me that the tariff is the overwhelming issue this campaign. It is certainly to the forefront in Ohio. \* \* \* Right here in Ohio we had our own experience with the disasters of the Underwood tariff. My own city of Cleveland was constrained to raise the sum of \$100,000 to provide work for the unemployed and thus prevent 'soup kitchens' and other relief for the thousands of industrious, thrifty working men who were walking the streets—thrown out of employment through no fault of theirs, by the Democratic tariff.

"In February, 1914, in Cincinnati there were 22,851 experienced machinists out of employment; there were 11,200 mechanics and helpers out of employment. Soup kitchens were established.

"Of the 86 manufacturing industries, 30 were entirely closed down, 10 were working only 25 per cent of full time, 35 were working only 64 per cent of full time, 8 were working 80 per cent of full time and not a single one of the entire 86 was working full time.

"And the experience of Cincinnati and Cleveland was the experience of Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, New York, Chicago and of every other large manufacturing center in the country.

"The ending of the war will turn out thousands and thousands of men now engaged in the making or handling of ammunition and war supplies of special kinds that we are sending to Europe in great quantities.

"We shall then have on our hands a labor readjustment problem only less in magnitude than that which will confront Europe when its millions of soldiers lay down their weapons and turn to the avocations of peace."

## SALARIES UNDER HERRICK AND COX.

When Mr. Herrick went out of office as governor of Ohio only one man appointed by him received as high a salary as \$4,900 a year. That was the commissioner of insurance. The first Democratic governor after Herrick raised that salary to \$5,000. Gov. Cox appointed twenty-three men to office, each with a salary of either \$5,000 or \$6,000, and there were a number of others with salaries of \$4,000. Many of these had their salaries raised from what they originally received. It will be remembered that in nearly every instance of laws creating the many new offices there was a provision that the governor was either to fix the salary directly or that it was to be by his "consent and approval."

## WILSON'S DISCOVERER FOR HUGHES.

It is universally admitted that the discoverer of Wilson as presidential timber was Col. Harvey, editor of the leading critical journal of the country, the North American Review. The reigning political sensation of the day is a robust article by Col. Harvey in the October number of the North American Review, repudiating Wilson and urging the election of Hughes. Col. Harvey takes a strong stand for protection. After pointing out that there is an unprecedented industrial war coming on among the nations (after the present awful strife in Europe), he says:

"The pressing question is, which of the two parties is the better equipped to meet the situation? And we fear there can be but one answer. Seven of the 14 Democratic members of the present committee on ways and means hail from North Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Georgia, Missouri, Arkansas and Mississippi; former Chairman Underwood, a revenue tariff man of moderate views, has been succeeded by Claude Kitchin, a free trader, and the manufacturing states of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Connecticut and Massachusetts have in a Mr. Conroy of Tammany Hall, their sole spokesman and representative. It is no disparagement of these southern gentlemen to say that their unfamiliarity with the mighty industrial affairs of this great manufacturing region which few, if any, of them have even visited, disqualifies them for intelligent handling upon broad and effective lines of the critical situation which is being thrust upon us."

Col. Harvey produces the record and demonstrates that President Wilson has no abiding principles on anything, but has reversed himself, since he has been in the executive chair, on every public question which has come before him.

## WILLIS AS A PUBLIC MAN.

Originating with a couple of Cox's organs in Columbus (the Dispatch and the Ohio State Journal—both owned by the Wolfe brothers, one a cronie of Cox and the other drawing \$12,000 a year salary from the United States government by the grace of President Wilson) there is an effort being made by the Democrats to make it appear that Gov. Willis is a man of small caliber.

Men of affairs, both in Ohio and outside, know this to be a jaundiced, malicious piece of spittlework. But few public men have so impressed themselves upon the country in such a short time as has Gov. Willis. The universal testimony of observers—including neutral and Democratic newspaper correspondents—at the national convention at Chicago, was that he, by pure force of character, ability and energy was one of the great leaders of his party.

Two or three of Cox's lieutenants at Columbus went to Chicago on purpose to belittle Willis, but they themselves were made to look the insignificant creatures.

At the recent state Republican convention of Michigan, Gov. Willis spoke and the Associated Press (an impartial authority) recorded that he delivered "what was declared by many to be one of the greatest speeches made to a Michigan Republican convention in years."

## GOMPERS A DEMOCRAT.

Of course Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, has every right to be a Democrat if he wants to be, but the Marlon (O.) Star asks by what right he is always trying to drag down the A. F. L. into the Democratic camp. He is reported to be drawing a salary of \$7,500 a year (and expenses), and to this all members of the federation contribute, whether they be Republicans, Democrats, Socialists or what-not. Yet Gompers claims the right to mount the Democratic stump, to assail Republican candidates for office and to demand that members of the federation vote en masse for Democratic candidates.

It will be remembered that Gompers tried to swing the A. F. L. to Bryan, but the members of that organization chose to do their own political thinking and voting.

## SOME HOT SHOTS.

Senator Pomeroy and Chairman Finley would probably feel crowded if their headquarters were in the same block.

Nothing has bumped into Gov. Willis' boom.

Our own self-respect demands that we support the man of deeds done in the open against the man of furtive and shifting political maneuvers.—From Theodore Roosevelt's Battle Creek speech. How cold the Colonel is! What?

President Wilson prophesies war if the Republican party wins in November. And he has about as much faith in his own prediction as he would put in a report that the sky is going to fall next week.

Where Cox and his gang used to place a rubber stamp, Ohio voters are going to put their feet.

In his desperation, President Wilson is appealing to the young voters for help. Probably he figures that it is easy to fool them.

One objection to President Wilson is that he thrills the people one day and chills them the next with a change of attitude.

If Cox is going to campaign on his record those who place Gov. Willis' plurality at only 100,000 run the risk of being classed among pessimists.

Ohio Democrats may be interested to know that the squirrels are laying up large stores. According to tradition, this means a long, hard winter.

It is a difficult matter to strike at Gov. Cox's record without hitting a vulnerable spot.

In what he called his "fighting speech," delivered at Battle Creek, Col. Roosevelt put this ringing appeal before the people: "Repudiate Mr. Wilson because only by so doing can we save America from that taint of gross selfishness and cowardice which we owe to Mr. Wilson's substitution of adroit elocution for straightforward action."

Mr. Hughes doesn't seem to be running out of issues. And as for Gov. Willis, the Cox regime provided him with enough to last through half a dozen campaigns.

## "FACTS NOT WORTH KNOWING."

A Democratic campaign can't be opened with a shoe button.

Rubber stamp legislators are good for one term only.

Gov. Cox's record, played on a graphophone, would sound like nocturnal cats in the backyard at moonless midnight.

Senator Pomeroy can't sleep comfortably with a Fieriara Hope that monopolizes all the covers.

Put Sadies knows where there are enough caws for the regular crew dinner.